Exhibit A

IN THE CLAIMS

1. A computer-implemented method comprising:

validating configuration information specified by a user storing the configuration information in a database;

extracting at least a subset of the configuration information from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of a plurality of business sites; and

generating a text-based configuration file containing the extracted configuration information.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes configuration keyword information recognizable by a messaging application.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is a relational database.

4. Canceled.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

configuring a messaging application using the configuration file.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising periodically generating additional text-based configuration files according to a schedule.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the database includes configuration information for the plurality of business sites across a plurality of networks.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information is used by at least one messaging application to transmit a message to a destination.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a contact.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a contact method.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a method type.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a contact group.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a contact group member

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a schedule.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a strategy.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a pager type.

17. The method of claim 1 further comprising: creating at least one include file for a plurality of sections within the configuration file.

18. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
compiling the configuration file into a compiled file at a later time.

19. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
updating the configuration information stored in the database through a portal.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein the extracting is performed over a secure communication pathway.

21. A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause said processor to perform a method comprising:
validating configuration information specified by a user storing the configuration information in a database;
extracting at least a subset of the configuration information from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of a plurality of business sites; and
generating at least one text-based configuration file containing the extracted configuration information.

22. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the configuration information includes configuration keyword information recognizable by a messaging application.

23. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the database is a relational database.

24. Canceled.

25. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises configuring a messaging application using the configuration file.

26. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the generating of the text-based configuration file is performed periodically according to a schedule.

27. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the database includes configuration information for the plurality of business sites across a plurality of networks.

28. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the configuration information is used by at least one messaging application to transmit a message to a destination.

29. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the configuration information includes a set of one or more contacts, contact methods, method types, contact groups, contact group members, schedules, strategies, and pager type.

30. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises: creating at least one include file for a plurality of sections within the configuration file.

31. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises:

compiling the configuration file into a compiled file at a later time.

32. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises:

updating the configuration information stored in the database through a portal.

33. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the receiving is performed over a secure communication pathway.

34. An apparatus comprising:

a database, the database to store configuration information specified by a user; and

a configuration generator, the configuration generator to validate the configuration information to be saved in the database, to extract at least a subset of the configuration information over a communication pathway from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of a plurality of business sites, and to generate at least one text-based configuration file including the extracted configuration information.

35. The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:

a portal, the portal to provide access to a user to update the configuration information.

36. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the configuration information includes configuration keyword information recognizable by a messaging application.

37. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the configuration information includes a set of one or more contacts, contact methods, method types, contact groups, contact group members, schedules, strategies, and pager type.

38. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the database is a relational database.

39. Canceled.

40. The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:
a compiler to generate a binary configuration file after generation of the configuration file.

41. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the generation of the binary configuration file is executed from a scheduling tool.

42. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the scheduling tool is at least one from a group consisting of a windows scheduler or a unix cron.

43. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the configuration generator is further to generate at least one include file for a plurality of sections within the configuration file.

44. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the communication pathway is a secure communication pathway.

45. An apparatus comprising:

a storage device, the storage device to store configuration information specified by a user; and

a processor coupled with the storage device over a communications pathway, the processor to validate the configuration information to be saved in a database, to extract at least a subset of the configuration information from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of a plurality of business sites, and to generate at least one text-based configuration file including the extracted configuration information.

46. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the configuration information includes configuration keyword information recognizable by a messaging application.

47. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the configuration information includes a set of one or more contacts, contact methods, contact groups, schedules, strategies, and pager type.

48. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the storage device is a relational database.

49. Canceled.

50. The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:
a compiler to generate a binary configuration file after generation of the configuration file.

51. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the generation of the binary configuration file is executed from a scheduling tool.

52. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the scheduling tool is one from a group consisting of a windows scheduler or a unix cron.

53. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the processor is further to generate at least one include file for a plurality of sections within the configuration file.

54. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the communication pathway is a secure communications pathway.

55-56. (Not Entered)

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the configuration information extracted from the database is specific to one of the plurality of business sites.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein validating configuration information comprises:
performing at least one of a referential check, a value validation check and a typographical error check.